

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 remain pending, wherein claims 1-3 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments merely place these claims in U.S. claim format and do not limit the scope of these claims.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,775,843 to McDermott (“McDermott”). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing this ground of rejection in detail, a brief summary of the disclosed invention is presented to highlight advantageous characteristics thereof. The disclosed invention is directed to the creation of a channel map using an automatic storage function. Conventional techniques require detection of all channels capable of reception to determine whether any program is being broadcast. These techniques can be rather time consuming.

To address this and other deficiencies of conventional techniques, in accordance exemplary embodiments of the disclosed invention, when a VCT on a particular physical channel includes information on any other physical channel, these other physical channels are registered in the channel map. (See, for example, steps s5-s8 of Fig. 4). The next physical channel is then selected and it is determined whether the next physical channel is registered in the channel

map. (See, for example, steps S9 and S3). Accordingly, if one of the other physical channels that were registered by being detected in a VCT of a different physical channel has been selected, then the VCT for this physical channel is not selected, but instead a next physical channel is selected. (See, for example, “Yes” path out of step s3). Accordingly, using the techniques of the disclosed invention can reduce the time for executing automatic storage selection.

Turing now to the claimed invention, McDermott does not anticipate Applicants’ claim 1 because McDermott does not disclose an automatic storage section in which “when the channel information obtained on the physical channels at which a program is broadcast contains any other physical channels therein... decides whether the physical channel which is switched has been registered in the channel map, and if the physical channel has been registered, does not detect whether a program is broadcast at the other physical channels and also inhibits the virtual channels stored in the channel storing section from being registered in the channel map.”

McDermott discloses a method and apparatus for digital TV channel mapping, including an auto programming module. The auto programming module tunes to a first physical channel, gathers the VCT for the tuned channel, and retrieves the TTSID and a virtual channel (CTSID) from the VCT. (Fig. 3A, steps 310-322). The CTSID for the virtual channel is compared to the retrieved TTSID. (Fig. 3A, step 326). When the “TTSID is not equal to the CTSID, then

block 330 is bypassed, as no mapping occurs.” (Col. 5, lines 46-48). This occurs when “a VCT …not only describes virtual channels in its TTSID, but … also describe[s] virtual channels in other TTSIDs.” (Col. 5, lines 30-32).

When there are no more virtual channels in the VCT (“No” path out of step 334) and when there are more physical channels (“Yes” path out of step 342), then the next physical channel is tuned and comparison discussed above is performed. (Figs. 3A and 3B). If all physical channels have been tuned then the auto programming is completed. (Col. 5, lines 60-62).

However, there is no disclosure in McDermott of an automatic storage section which “when the channel information obtained on the physical channels at which a program is broadcast contains any other physical channels therein... decides whether the physical channel which is switched has been registered in the channel map.” Instead, McDermott discloses that when a VCT includes virtual channels in other TTSIDs (“No” path out of step 326), then no mapping occurs. (Fig. 3A).

Nevertheless, the Office Action cites blocks 342 and 350 of Fig. 3B and col. 5, lines 56-62. These sections, however, disclose that auto programming is completed when all physical channels have been tuned. There is nothing in the cited section that discusses deciding whether a physical channel has been registered in a channel map “when the channel information obtained on the

physical channels at which a program is broadcast contains any other physical channels therein.”

McDermott also does not disclose that an automatic storage section, “if the physical channel has been registered, does not detect whether a program is broadcast at the other physical channels and also inhibits the virtual channels stored in the channel storing section from being registered in the channel map.” The Office Action also cites blocks 342 and 350 of Fig. 3B and col. 5, lines 56-62 of McDermott as disclosing this element of Applicants’ claim 1. However, the cited sections of McDermott do not disclose if the physical channel has been registered, an automatic storage section “does not detect whether a program is broadcast at the other physical channels.” Moreover, the cited section of McDermott does not disclose that if the physical channel has been registered, an automatic storage section “inhibits the virtual channels stored in the channel storing section from being registered in the channel map.”

Because McDermott does not disclose all of the elements of Applicants’ claim 1, McDermott cannot anticipate this claim.

Claims 2 and 3 recite similar elements to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, and are not anticipated by McDermott for similar reasons to those discussed above.

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Claims 4-7 are patentably distinguishable over McDermott at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 3.

For at least those reasons stated above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Applicants' claims 1-7 as being anticipated by McDermott be withdrawn.

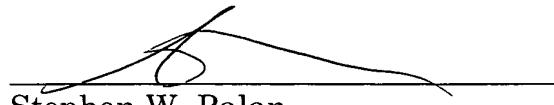
All outstanding objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010482.50930).

Respectfully submitted,

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